

Greenhouse Meeting Minutes August 28, 2009

In Attendance: JoAnne Skelly, Dawn Aragon, Janette Bloom, Karen Abowd, Joe McCarthy

Mtg Time; 12:00-1:00 PM

1) Update on Greenhouse Project

-Karen let the group know that we now have NV engineered stamped plans

-Karen recapped the events of the Eagle Valley Middle School Town Hall Mtg in early Aug and conveyed the residents distaste for the solar powered bus barn that had the capacity of storing 70 buses and their fear of increased road traffic with an already undersized roundabout on Fifth St. Karen stated there were however no objections to the greenhouse or wind turbines. She also reported that she received an email a week ago stating that the school district had decided to put the project on "indefinite hold".

-Karen then reported that some private citizens have offered land and at this time until a site is firmly established privately the location has been requested by the possible donor to be confidential. Karen is interfacing with Public Works and Dorothy Palmer on water issues to ascertain any roadblocks to the new greenhouse location. Karen also stated that she spoke to Richard Stokes directly to get accurate info on the school districts direction and was told that due to the upcoming bond issue they were considering the greenhouse project at the High School. Karen expressed concern on the tentativeness of this and told Richard the door would be kept open but that need could not take a back seat to politics and we would continue to explore other site locations.

-JoAnne Skelly said we now would have to include insurance and fingerprinting in our game plan. Dawn Aragon said we would need an agricultural meter and Dawn volunteered to help access info. JoAnne did not like the delay aspect of the High School location but suggested an interface with their tech and community service programs which Richard Stokes mentioned as well. Dawn was also going to check on the land the Mormon church owns adjacent to the HS. Joe said that sewer and water hookup fees would be reduced to \$300-\$500. Dawn offered to do computerized smart maps and copies of plan sets and will make a CD of our engineered plans and specs.

-Joe recommended sign in sheets at each meeting even though Karen records mtg attendance of in-kind commitments for grants. Janette reported that Dennis Helwinkle on the AG grant wants something specific funded as in education for example. Janette was pursuing the Learn and Serve Grant through the FFA. She had contacted Elizabeth Jackson who had applied and received a grant for a greenhouse structure in Gerlach. JoAnne reminded us that she is a USDA agency and that down the road we could apply for money through nutrition through EFNEP/a USDA agency. Dawn stated that PTA's donate to projects such as ours and Kiwanis helps raise money for organizations.

-Pam Graber submitted by-laws for Janette and Karen's review. Janette had written the Mission Statement which has been forwarded to the Greenhouse Project website and read it to the group at the meeting.

-Karen reported on the Business Plan progress. Tom Clark of Holland/Hart will meet with Janette and Karen on Sept 10 to work on the plan. Janette wanted a second set of legal eyes. Kathy Halbardier and Karen had met with Ben Steele to work on the financials and with Mark OFarrell of Hungary Mother Organics to gather some realistic numbers for Ben. Karen reported that until our new site is secure the financials are on hold. Karen also reported that we are officially interfacing with the Ron Wood Center's 501(3)(c) until the one for TGP is in place. Their accountant charges \$35/week for any accounting she has to do for us which at this time will not be much with the exception of the upcoming concert/silent auction fundraiser.

-Karen just reminded everyone about TGP fundraiser and about buying tickets through the BAC. She also stated that Mike Nelson of GrafX8 volunteered to do a logo for us. He and Kathy Halbardier were coordinating an informational display of TGP in the silent auction tent. Dawn offered to scan our flier for the concert/fundraiser and circulate via email to Washoe County employees. Joe offered to double the BAC's advertising time on the "X" to get the word out about the event and increase ticket sales.

-Janette stated that we needed to determine our officers for our Article of Incorporation so as not to incur a penalty fee and advised we could change these officers at a later date. It was determined that Director be Laura Fitzsimmons, Treasurer be Janette Bloom, President/Secretary be Karen Abowd. Oct 9 at 11:30 @ Adele's would be our first board meeting. Joe suggested that Karen email the action group members to see who is interested in a Board of Directors position for TGP

2) Flower Basket update.

-Ralph Marrone had other obligations so did not read his report. It will be submitted for the Sept 11 meeting.

-Karen reported that she on David Ruf's suggestion was talking to Nevadas Own about starting our baskets in their greenhouses by Feb next year for the full effect we are looking for.

-Karen also stated that our basket sponsorship program needs to be said and done by January so planting can begin earlier than we were able to this year. Baskets this year did not get planted until the third week of May.

-Karen also stated that by NDOT permit baskets must be taken down the first week in OCT.